



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

DHS AGENTS ARREST TWO MORE SUSPECTED MS-13 GANG MEMBERS

Gang members arrested while attempting to sneak into the U.S. illegally

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) border patrol agents this week arrested two suspected Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) gang members who entered the United States illegally.

Jose Osmin Barahona-Barahona, 22, a native from El Salvador, along with four other illegal aliens were apprehended by CBP border patrol agents Aug. 21 as they walked through the thick brush 13 miles South of the Falfurrias checkpoint.

Record checks revealed that Barahona-Barahona had been granted a voluntary departure for being illegally in the country June 17. He admitted to ICE special agents that he had joined the MS 13 gang when he was 18 years old near Fairfax, Va.

Carlos Antonio Dimas-Rivas, 25, a native from El Salvador, was arrested Aug. 21 by the Victoria County Sheriff's Department (VCSD) deputies in Victoria County while he was walking along a stretch of highway without any identification. He was transferred to ICE custody and criminal background checks revealed he had been deported from the United States three times: in November 2000, August 2001 and in October 2002. He was also excluded from entering the U.S. in May 2004 and January 2005.

Carlos Antonio Dimas-Rivas admitted to ICE agents that he joined the MS 13 gang when he was 14 years old while living with his father in Pasadena, Calif. His criminal history also revealed multiple arrests as a juvenile and adult for assault with a deadly weapon. He served a two-year prison sentence at San Quentin Prison.

“ICE will not allow violent gang members to enter the United States and threaten our nation’s security,” said Bob Rutt, ICE Houston special agent-in-charge. “ICE will use the authorities for both customs and immigration laws to identify, apprehend and deport these violent criminal aliens.”

This week’s arrests are part of Operation Community Shield. Operation Community Shield is a national initiative that has focused its efforts on identifying, apprehending and deporting from the United States, violent gang members who are illegally in the United States and who have committed crimes that also render them removable from the country. Since Operation Community Shield began in February, ICE has arrested more than 1,100 violent gang members nationwide.

ICE agents have also teamed up with local, state and federal law enforcement partners to target members of more than 54 violent street gangs, including: Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Sureness, 18th Street Gang, Latin Kings, Vatos Locos, Mexican Mafia, La Raza gang, Border Brothers, Brown Pride, Norteno, Florencia 13, Tiny Rascal, Asian Boyz, Jamaican Posse, and numerous other violent street gangs.

Both cases have been accepted for prosecution by the U.S. Attorney’s office in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Both ICE and CBP are agencies within the Department of Homeland Security.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.